

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CROPS

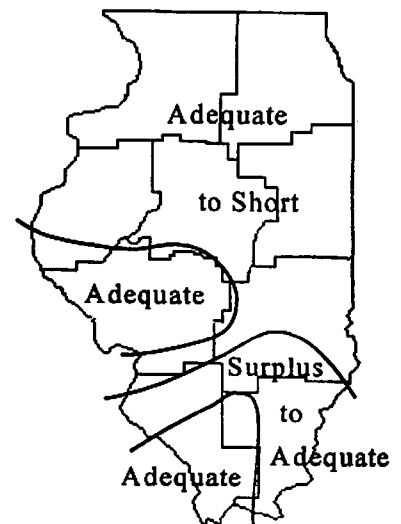
Illinois farmers are anxious to start planting but cool soil temperatures are keeping most of them from starting. Farmers are continuing to plant oats in spite of cool conditions. As of April 7, 16 percent of the oat crop had been planted. This compares to 23 percent last year and 32 percent for the five-year average. There was some corn planting reported but very little. As of April 7, less than one percent of corn had been planted.

Lack of moisture and warm temperatures is a concern which has taken a heavy toll on wheat and legume hay. Wheat has been hurt by the rough winter and late spring. There were reports of some wheat greening-up but stands look thin. As of April 5, the wheat crop was rated 20 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 12 percent good, and one percent excellent. Alfalfa hay was rated two percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 32 percent good, and one percent excellent. Pasture was nine percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 22 percent good, and one percent excellent.

Other farm activities are preparing field equipment, fertilizer and chemical applications, evaluating wheat, hauling grain, and tending livestock. Top soil moisture supply on April 5 was rated eight percent surplus, 54 percent adequate, 33 percent short, and five percent very short.

This is the first Weekly Illinois Weather and Crops report for the 1996 season. This report will be published at 3:00 p.m. every Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) until harvest is completed in the fall.

The cooperation of our weekly crop reporters and weather reporters makes this service available to Illinois agriculture. The Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service expresses our thanks for the faithful help of these volunteers.

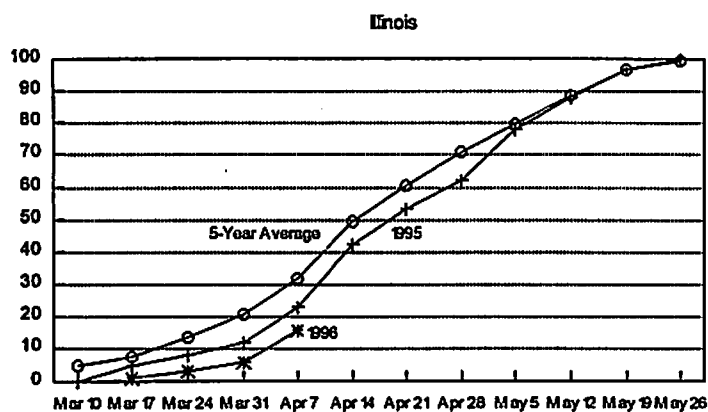


Topsoil Moisture Supply
April 5, 1996

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Days Suitable For Fieldwork		Topsoil Moisture Percent			
			Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	March 30-April 5		As of April 5			
Northwest	4.4	0	51	46	3	
Northeast	2.3	12	31	57	-	
West	2.5	5	46	49	-	
Central	3.1	14	57	29	-	
East	4.8	3	62	33	2	
W Southwest	1.8	1	26	71	2	
E Southeast	.7	2	20	61	17	
Southwest	.8	-	1	82	17	
Southeast	.7	5	7	60	28	
State	2.2	5	33	54	8	

Oats - Percent Seeded



WEATHER SUMMARY

Weekly highs averaged in the upper 40's to lower 50's, while the lows were in the upper 20's to lower 30's. This caused mean temperatures to average well below normal for the week. Precipitation totals were also low, most of the state of Illinois received less than 0.10 inch during the week ending April 8, 1996.

Week ending 8 A.M. Monday, April 8, 1996

Location	Temperatures			Precipitation
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure	
Elizabeth	52	23	-7	0.04
Rockford	51	27	-6	0.00
Chicago	48	28	-6	0.00
Chi Botanical	47	27	-19	0.00
Watseka	48	27	-9	0.02
Peru	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Moline	56	32	-1	0.00
Peoria	57	32	-3	0.00
Monmouth	55	31	-4	0.01
Quincy	54	34	-3	0.00
Perry	57	32	-5	0.00
Springfield	57	32	-5	0.04
Urbana	54	31	-4	0.02
Windsor	55	31	-7	0.00
Terre Haute	55	32	-4	0.16
St. Louis	59	39	N/A	0.01
Belleville	60	35	-6	0.00
Brownstown	53	33	-7	0.00
Iuka	54	34	-6	0.03
Lawrenceville	52	35	-7	0.03
Vincennes	51	32	-10	0.13
Dixon Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paducah	57	34	N/A	0.26
Olive Branch	53	35	-9	N/A
Carbondale	55	35	-8	0.26
C Girardeau	56	35	N/A	0.23

N/A - Not Available.

Information above provided by Midwest Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey, Champaign, IL 61820

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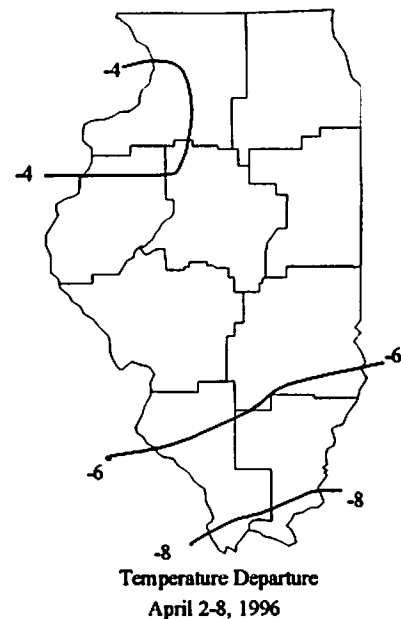
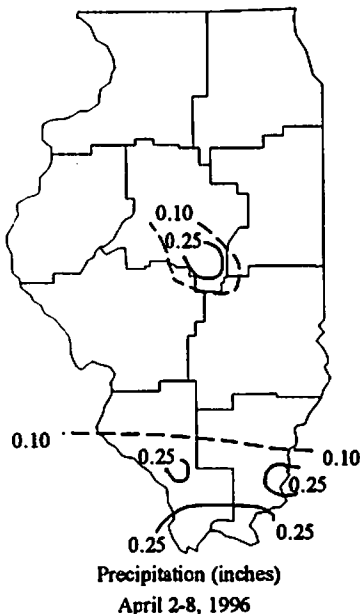
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Champaign, Illinois 61820



CROP PROGRESS INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by local area officials of Farm Service Agency, Extension Service, National Resources Conservation Service, Farm Business Farm Management field staff, and agribusiness managers.

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